



*SPC Jeremy Teela*



*SPC Doug Driessen*

# Utah Gold

**Story by Douglas Ide Photos by Robert Trubia**

**A**FTER garnering slots on U.S. Winter Olympic teams eight soldier-athletes will be representing the United States at the 2002 Winter Olympic Games in Utah.

SPC Doug Sharp and SPC Mike Kohn earned slots on the U.S. Olympic men's bobsled team, while SPC Jill Bakken earned a place on the women's bobsled team.

National Guard soldiers earned five of the eight slots on the biathlon team. Two other Guard soldiers are alternates for the U.S. team.

SGT Lawton Redman and SPC Jeremy Teela will represent the men in Utah, along with two civilian team members. SGT Kristina Sabasteanski, SPC Kara Salmela and SPC Andrea Nahrgang will compete with one civilian team member on the women's team.

Olympic trials were held at Soldier Hollow, Utah. The trials were open to any eligible athlete who had achieved 85 points on the autumn 2001 National Points list. Besides Nahrgang, other WCAP soldiers who met this criteria

*SGT Kristina Sabasteanski*

were SPC Doug Driessen, SGT Scott Doughty, SSG Dan Westover, 1LT Robert Rosser and 1LT Curtis Schreiner.

Four soldiers — two women and two men — had earned slots on U.S. national bobsled teams, allowing them to compete for spots on the U.S. Olympic team.

The 2002 Winter Olympics will be the first to have women's bobsled as a medal sport. Women compete in the two-woman competition only, which includes a driver and a push athlete/brakeman. The Army had one driver, SPC Jill Bakken, and one brakeman, SPC Shauna Rohbock, still competing for positions on the women's team in December.

Competing together, the two U.S. Army World Class athletes captured first place at the U.S. Bobsled National Team Trial, coming from a second-place finish on the first day of the trials to win the competition on day two.

Two soldiers earned slots on the



four-man team USA II, while a third soldier was named an alternate for the USA II team.

Sidepushers SPC Michel Kohn and SPC Douglas Sharp, along with brakeman Jeff Laynes and driver Brian Shimer, placed second during the first day of their competition and third on the second day, finishing second overall.

SPC Steven Holcomb was named an alternate for USA II. □

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